

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05428 01 OF 02 111818Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-02
INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-20 COME-00 BIB-01 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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R 111723Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8212

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 05428

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, ETEL, ITU
SUBJ: ITU: BUDGET FOR 1979

REF: (A) GENEVA 4343, (B) GENEVA 4761

1. MISSION HAS REVIEWED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSED ITU BUDGET FOR 1979. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS BE REFLECTED IN THE US POSITION PAPER.

2. THE 1979 BUDGET IS PROPOSED TO RISE TO SF 63,178,000 FROM SF 60,600,000, AN INCREASE OF 4.2 PERCENT. ITU DOES NOT IDENTIFY WHAT PORTION OF INCREASE IS FOR COST INCREASE BUT, SINCE RATE OF INFLATION IN SWITZERLAND IS VERY LOW AND SINCE BUDGET IS STATED IN SWISS FRANCS SO THAT ITU SHOULD BE BENEFITING FROM EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS, MAJOR PORTION OF INCREASE APPEARS TO BE FOR PROGRAM OR CONFERENCE. IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR IO TO COMPARE ROUGHLY 4 PERCENT PROGRAM/CONFERENCE INCREASE FOR ITU TO US POSITION ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ITU'S PRIORITIES JUSTIFY SUCH AN INCREASE.

3. MAJOR ELEMENT IN INCREASE IS WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05428 01 OF 02 111818Z

RADIO CONFERENCE WHICH, EVEN AFTER SOME JUGGLING OF BOOKS, LEAVES BUDGETARY PROVISION FOR CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS ALMOST 12 PERCENT OVER TORREMOLINOS CEILING. THE 1973 PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE THAT ESTABLISHED THAT CEILING PROVIDED A FLEXIBILITY CLAUSE FOR UNAVOIDABLE SALARY INCREASES. IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE, SAVINGS THAT ARE

POSSIBLE IN OTHER SECTIONS OF THE BUDGET BUT WHICH ARE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE BUDGET SHOULD BE UTILIZED.

4. IT IS PROPOSED TO TRANSFER FOUR PUBLICATION POSTS TO THE ORDINARY BUDGET AND TO REACTIVATE A DRAFTSMAN POST THAT HAS BEEN FROZEN SINCE 1977. INFORMATION SHOULD BE REQUESTED ON TOTAL POSTS, THE AVERAGE PROFESSIONAL GRADE AND THE AVERAGE GENERAL SERVICE GRADE, AS WELL AS THE AVERAGE SALARY OF EACH FOR EACH OF THE PAST FIVE OR TEN YEARS. UNLESS THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS, ANY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS IN THE ORDINARY BUDGET SHOULD BE OPPOSED. IN ANY EVENT, EVEN IF ACCEPTABLE JUSTIFICATION IS PRESENTED, THE ACTION SHOULD BE DEFERRED AT LEAST ONE YEAR PURSUANT TO PARA 3 ABOVE.

5. FURTHER SAVINGS APPEAR POSSIBLE BY HOLDING TRAVEL TO 1978 LEVEL, BY REDUCING BUDGETARY PROVISION FOR MAINTENANCE OF FURNITURE AND MACHINES, AND BY CUTTING DOWN ON NUMBER OF TYPEWRITERS TO BE PURCHASED. ALSO, THE COST OF COMPUTER SUPPLIES WARRANTS QUESTIONS, AS DOES RECRUITMENT EXPENSES. THERE ARE ALSO MEETINGS HELD AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS TO WHICH THE PRINCIPLE OF HOST COUNTRY RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCREMENTAL COSTS WOULD SEEM TO RELATE.
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05428 01 OF 02 111818Z

6. THE NARRATIVE PORTION OF THE BUDGET, ALTHOUGH NOT THE TABULAR SECTIONS, REFERS TO A DEFICIT OF SF 1,420,100 FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION SPECIAL ACCOUNT BUDGET. THE NATURE OF THE DEFICIT IS NOT EXPLAINED. BECAUSE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT DEFICIT MIGHT NOT BE COVERED BY UNDP, THERE COULD BE PRESSURE AFTER THE FACT TO COVER THE DEFICIT FROM THE ORDINARY BUDGET. THE US POLICY IS TO OPPOSE INCREASED USE OF REGULAR BUDGETS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ITU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DOES NOT SEEM TO WARRANT EXCEPTION. THEREFORE, THE US SHOULD SEEK SUPPORT FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SECRETARIAT THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITY BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDING IS ASSURED.

7. SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE PUBLICATIONS BUDGET ARE PROPOSED.

-- A. A NEW SECTION 8 IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE COST IN THE ORDINARY BUDGET OF OFFICIAL REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS. THIS CAN BE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

-- B. IT IS PROPOSED THAT FOUR OF THE THIRTEEN POSTS UNDER THE PUBLICATIONS BUDGET BE TRANSFERRED TO THE ORDINARY BUDGET. A REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE AUTHORIZATION OF THESE POSTS IS INDICATED SINCE THE JOB TITLES DO NOT CLEARLY RELATE TO PUBLICATIONS AND THE PUBLICATIONS BUDGET MAY JUST HAVE BEEN A HANDY DEVICE FOR NEW JOBS THAT COULD NOT GAIN APPROVAL UNDER THE ORDINARY BUDGET. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE SUPPORTED.

-- C. A PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE CHARGING THE PUBLICATIONS BUDGET FOR A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE AMORTIZATION OF

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05428 02 OF 02 111817Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 05428

THE ITU PREMISES MAY BE SUPPORTED.

-- D. A PROPOSAL TO CHARGE SF 600,000 OF THE COST OF CONFERENCES TO THE PUBLICATIONS BUDGET IS NOT COMMON SENSE AND SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED; IF NOT JUSTIFIED IT SHOULD BE OPPOSED. HOWEVER, DEFERRING ITEMS A AND C FOR ONE YEAR AND REJECTING ITEM B WOULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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